

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 MC-02

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 STR-08 CIEP-02 OMB-01

SIL-01 LAB-06 TAR-02 SPC-03 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /130 W

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UNCLAS PARIS 24452

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: GUENA COMMENTS ON AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY

1. WIRE SERVICES REPORT THAT IN SPEECH THIS MORNING
OPENING TWO DAY WEU-ORGANIZED SEMINAR IN PARIS ON EUROPEAN
CIVIL AND MILITARY AVIATION POLICY, FRENCH TRANSPORT
MINISTER GUENA STATED THAT AT REYKJAVIK MEETING PRESIDENT POMPIDOU
HAD SUGGESTED TO PRESIDENT NIXON POSSIBILITY OF JOINT COOPERATION
WITH US IN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW GENERATION OF SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT
SUCCEEDING CONCORDE. GUENA IS REPORTED NOT TO HAVE ELABORATED
FURTHER ON SUBJECT.

2. ABOVE REMARK WAS MADE TO EVIDENCE CLAIM THAT
FRANCE SOUGHT COOPERATION WITH US AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY
AND APPARENTLY AT SAME TIME TO OFFSET GUENA'S URGING OF A
"BUY EUROPEAN" POLICY IN ORDER TO SAVE EUROPEAN AERONAUTICAL
INDUSTRY. UPI REPORTS GUENA AS SAYING THAT SUCH POLICY WAS
ONLY ANSWER TO AGGRESSIVE SALESMANSHIP OF US INDUSTRY, WHICH
DOMINATED MARKET AND THUS IMPERILED FUTURE OF EUROPEAN
AERONAUTICAL
INDUSTRY AND THOUSANDS OF JOBS. HE IS REPORTED AS QUALIFYING
IT AS "IMPROPER" FOR EUROPEAN AIRLINES TO GIVE PREFERENCE TO
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AMERICAN AIRCRAFT: WHILE AIRLINES MIGHT BE GUIDED
IMPORTANTLY BY PRICE CONSIDERATIONS, IT WAS RESPONSIBILITY OF
EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TO INTERVENE
TO ENSURE THAT INTERESTS OF EUROPEAN
AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY WERE PROTECTED. GUENA CITED DOLLAR
DEVALUATION
AS HAVING MADE PRICE COMPETITION BETWEEN US AND EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT
IMPOSSIBLE AND HE ALSO SINGLED OUT FOR CRITICISM US TARIFF ON
IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AIRCRAFT. AS SELF-POLICING MEASURE HE
CALLED ON EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO PLEDGE NOT TO LAUNCH PROGRAMS
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AIRCRAFT UNLESS FIRST COORDINATED WITH
OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT. GUENA'S REMARKS REFLECT GOF'S CONTINUING
SERIOUS PREOCCUPATION WITH PRECARIOUS STATE OF FRENCH
AERONAUTICAL
INDUSTRY, IN VIEW ABSENCE OF SALES AND RESULTANT PRESSURES
ON COSTS AND EMPLOYMENT LEVEL. RECALLING PRIME MINISTER MESSMER'S
SPEECH ALONG MUCH SAME LINES AT PARIS AIR SHOW LAST JUNE, GUENA
REMARKS REVEAL THAT "BUY EUROPEAN" POLICY SUPPORTED BY SOME FORM
OF PREFERENCE FAVORING MARKETING IN EUROPE OF EUROPEAN-BUILT
AIRCRAFT REMAINS A FIXATION IN SOME FRENCH MINDS. THIS RAISES
QUESTION OF WHEN GOF MIGHT CEASE JUST TALKING AND PROPOSE
SOME TANGIBLE INITIATIVE IN THIS DIRECTION WITH ITS EUROPEAN
PARTNERS TO PUT PRINCIPLE INTO PRACTICE, TO DETRIMENT OF MARKET
FOR US AIRCRAFT IN EUROPE. IRWIN

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